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Sustainable development

Yemen:* draft resolution

Oil slick on Lebanese shores

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006, 62/188 of 19 December 2007, 63/211 of 19 December 2008 and 64/195 of 21 December 2009 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference,[1] in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3]

Noting with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline and extended to the Syrian coastline,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

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Noting, further, that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of acknowledgment on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General[4] concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration,[4] and recognizing his recommendation that further consideration be given to the option of examining the potential role of the Compensation Commission in securing the relevant compensations from the Government of Israel,

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund under its existing mechanisms,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 64/195 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;[5]

2. *Reiterates the expression of its deep concern*, for the fifth consecutive year, about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese Jiyeh electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health, in the country;

4. *Requests* the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the Secretary-General's remark concerning the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of the relevant paragraphs of Assembly resolutions 61/194, 62/188, 63/211 or 64/195;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give further consideration to the option of examining the potential role of the Compensation Commission in securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel;

6. *Reiterates the expression of its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of the Member States, regional and international

[4] A/65/278, para. 32.
[5] A/65/278.

organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages the Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

7. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at Jiyeh electric power plant;

8. *Invites* States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance, in order to ensure that the Trust Fund has sufficient and adequate resources, since Lebanon is still engaged in the treatment of wastes and the monitoring of recovery;

9. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".